Professional Conference Video

Let the Kids Drive; Using Technology to Engage and Empower Student Learning

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When it comes to technology use in the classroom it is easy to try and veer away from it. Instead of teaching the students about how to use technology correctly, we often times find ourselves avoiding it so we do not have to deal with it. Instead we need to promote the use of technology by using it in our classrooms and showing the students the variety of ways it can be used.

The use of technology in many school is based on what school nearby are doing. Some school districts purchase a variety of technology items because the district next to them is doing it we better so we can keep up. Often times there is a variety of equipment in the school and that teachers do not know how to use. Then comes profession development, there is never enough time to provide the PD so that these tools can be used.

In order to allow the students to drive the use of technology in the school we have to first show them how to use the technology correctly. Once they are shown how to use it correctly and we show them that we can trust them then hopefully many of the problems will be eliminated from the start. Without teaching them about digital citizenship then we are setting them up for failure.

Using a variety of technology, such as media, for students to re-enact a project allows them to use their creativity and provides them with a variety of options to create their project. This might be the project that allows that one student to shine that usually does not get very involved in activities in the classroom.